

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

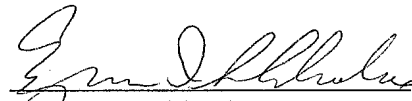
Applicants have amended the present independent claims 40 and 67 to recite collaboration between service providers to fulfill a customer order. The patent to Vega does not mention the type of collaboration as presently claimed in these independent claims. Because this collaborative effort was previously recited in claim 66, applicants have now canceled that claim. In rejecting claim 66, the examiner cited the teachings of Vega in columns 13 and 14. This portion of Vega describes collective agreements and collective offers, however, there is no description of collaboration to satisfy a customer order as is presently claimed in claims 40 and 67. Collaborative service provider efforts are described throughout the present patent specification, and at least at page 6, lines 12 - 20; page 8, line 21 - page 9 line 2; page 10, lines 3 - 6; page 15 lines 15 - 25.

Another feature of the present invention that Vega does not mention is the provision of a list of matching service providers whose offered prices are based on retail customers or other providers on a wholesale price basis, as is described at page 7, lines 1 - 5. Independent claim 67 now recites this feature that is not mentioned by Vega. Because all of the dependent claims include the limitations of the independent claims from which they depend, they are also allowable for the same reasons given above.

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that the claims in their present form are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this communication to Eastman Kodak Company, Deposit Account No. 05-0225.

Respectfully submitted,



Eugene I. Shkurko
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 36,678

EIS:cvn
Attachment(s)
Rochester, NY 14650-2201
Telephone: 585-253-0123
Facsimile: 585-477-4646

If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.